

City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department
Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District (TOSMD)
Tierrasanta Open Space Committee
7 pm at Tierrasanta Recreation Center • 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
REVISED Agenda for April 6, 2016 Meeting

The Tierrasanta Open Space Committee is advisory to the City of San Diego Open Space Division on matters related to the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District. Voting members: Deanna Spehn* (Chair), Jennifer Schultz* (Secretary), Jerry Bierman, Lee Campbell, Teresa Clowes, Roberta Froome, John Hopper, Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen, Russ May*, Bob Muldrew, Betty Ogilvie, Mike Ogilvie, Dick Rees, James Sanders and Rich Thesing*. City Staff: Bob Smith and Ray Garcia

Agenda

7:00 pm Chair Deanna Spehn will call the meeting to order and establish that a quorum is present, followed by introductions of those present and agenda review.

1. Presentation by Laura Ball, Biologist, City of San Diego Open Space Division; Status of Trails System and Environmental Study Status & Timeline and other matters related to Open Space in Tierrasanta including who sets policies on how to handle debris dams and fallen trees
2. Non-Agenda Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person on subjects under the jurisdiction of this committee)
3. Approval of February 3, 2016 Draft Minutes – see attached
4. Approval of March 2, 2016 Draft Minutes – see attached
5. Staff Report for April 6, 2016 meeting: Tree Trimming; Status of Service Road in Shepherd Canyon; Brush Management; Weed Control – Bob Smith
6. Update from Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons: James Sanders
7. Status of proposed changes to the Municipal Code and City Council Policies related to Maintenance Assessment Districts; and status of review and recommended changes to the Bylaws for the Tierrasanta Community Council as a planning committee – Deanna Spehn
8. Timeline of meetings for 2016: early review of proposed budget for next year including whether major projects should be considered for funding such as planting new trees; dealing with standing water issues caused by debris dams; and other capital project ideas
9. New Business – to be referred to a future noticed meeting of the Tierrasanta Open Space Committee
10. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 – 7 pm Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. On the agenda will be election of Chair and Secretary for the Committee.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
OPEN SPACE DIVISION
TIERRASANTA MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
April 6, 2016
Staff Report

Ongoing Projects/Completed

- **Tree Trimming** - West Coast Arborists continues to trim trees in various areas of the Open Space. They have finished the tree inventory of the Open Space Tree.

Open Space

- **Open Space Trails Plan** - Laura Ball Project Officer II, City of San Diego, Park and Rec. Department will provide an update on the Tierrasanta Trail plans.
- **Service Road Shepherd Canyon** - DG will be added on an as needed basis to control erosion.
- **Brush Management** -The Brush Management Unit has completed their scope of work for 2016. They are scheduled to return in 2018.
- **Invasive Weed Growth Removal** - Kelly and Associates will be removing invasive weed growth (Fennel, Mustard, and Eucalyptus Sprouts) from the north and east sides of Shepherds Canyon.

Landscape Contract

- **Treebeard** - continues to provide services within budget.

Miscellaneous.

- Discuss and approve a landscape project in the Rights of Way in front of the shopping center on Tierrasanta Blvd. Project to include colored DG and a small area of water wise grass around the trees with drought tolerant ground cover.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Smith, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Open Space Division / MAD's Park and
Recreation Department
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City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
 Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District
Tierrasanta Open Space Committee

Draft Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2016 Meeting
 Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Voting members:	Present/Excused/Absent	
	February 3, 2016	November 4, 2015
Deanna Spehn* Chair	Present	Present
Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz* Secretary	Present	Present
Jerry Bierman	Absent	Absent
Lee Campbell	Present	Present
Teresa Clowes	Absent	Absent
Justin DeCesare* Chair, Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group	Absent	Absent
Roberta Froome	Present	Absent
John Hopper	Present	Absent
Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen*	Present	Absent
Russ May*	Present	Present
Bob Muldrew	Present	Present
Betty Ogilvie	Present	Present
Mike Ogilvie	Present	Present
Dick Rees	Absent	Absent
Rich Thesing*	Present	Present

Staff:
Robert Smith, Tierrasanta Open Space Inspector
Sheldon Zemen, City Council District 7 representative for Scott Sherman
Ray Garcia, Sr., Parks and Recreation Department

Vendors, presenters, community members	
James Sanders	
Bob Lang	

The meeting convened at 7:03 p.m. Members and guests made introductions. A quorum was established. [15 voting members on the committee, 11 present]

Item 1: Non agenda public comment

Bob Lang reported that “leaks” continue to occur in the basin of the Restoration Area near Santo Road and Antigua Blvd. Deanna Spehn and Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz noted that natural springs occur throughout Tierrasanta. Could these be the source of the leaks? Ms. Spehn asked if the water could be tested. Russ May noted that an acoustic study could be conducted to determine

the source of the leak. It was agreed that the water should be tested, and the acoustic studies conducted.

Jennifer Cochrane Schultz and others noted that Clairemont Mesa Blvd. is being slowly undercut due to excessive rains and poor drainage capacity. Ms. Spehn reported that the clearing of concrete swales takes precedence in a year with anticipated El Nino activity.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Rich Thesing moved, and Betty Ogilvie seconded that the minutes be approved. Jennifer Cochrane Schultz and John Hopper abstained due to non-attendance.

Item 3: Staff Report for February 3, 2016 meeting

Refer to the staff report for further details. Briefly:

- Tierrasanta weathered well during the first round of the El Nino season. No major storm damage has been reported. Bob Smith has received a few calls to trim trees along the various canyon rims.
- Bob Smith recommended that we expand the inventory of trees to include those close to homes in order to reduce liability issues. This recommendation was approved.
- We await further word from Helix and the Open Space Division regarding the trails plan.

Item 4: Follow up Discussion on Red Pond/Dishwasher Pond

After an extensive debate it was decided to eliminate this item from the agenda until such time as we have new information that would make it both financially and environmentally feasible to reconsider the restoration of this wetland to pond status.

Item 5: Encroachment Issues

Bob Smith reported that interviews are in process for the selection of a dedicated code enforcement officer to deal with open space concerns.

Item 6: Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons

The Friends continued their work in Shepherd Canyon to remove palm seedlings and eucalyptus saplings. The successful installation of a second foot bridge south of Villarrica Drive was noted.

Item 7: New Business

There was no new business to report. The addition of James Sanders to the Open Space Committee will be considered at the next meeting.

Item 8: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
 Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District
Tierrasanta Open Space Committee

Draft Minutes for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 Meeting
 Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Voting members:	Present/Excused/Absent		
	March 2, 2016	February 3, 2016	November 4, 2015
Deanna Spehn* Chair	Present	Present	Present
Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz* Secretary	Present	Present	Present
Jerry Bierman	Present	Absent	Absent
Lee Campbell	Present	Present	Present
Teresa Clowes	Absent	Absent	Absent
Justin DeCesare* Chair, Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group	Absent	Absent	Absent
Roberta Froome	Absent	Present	Absent
John Hopper	Absent	Present	Absent
Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen*	Absent	Present	Absent
Russ May*	Present	Present	Present
Bob Muldrew	Absent	Present	Present
Betty Ogilvie	Present	Present	Present
Mike Ogilvie	Present	Present	Present
Dick Rees	Absent	Absent	Absent
Rich Thesing*	Present	Present	Present

Staff:
Robert Smith, Tierrasanta Open Space Inspector
Sheldon Zemen, City Council District 7 representative for Scott Sherman

Vendors, presenters, community members	
James Sanders	Krista Polito
Bob Lang	
Bill Winans	
Rick Polito	

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m. Members and guests made introductions. A quorum was established. [15 voting members on the committee, 8 present]

Item 1: Non agenda public comment

Bob Lang reported that the Dishwasher Pond water level sits just below its overflow state. He requested affirmation that the pond will not be filled this year. Bob Smith replied that the pond could be filled even under drought conditions, as this is part of an existing policy. Regardless, the Open Space Division may still get complaints about excess water usage.

Bob Lang reported that water seepage continued to occur in the basin of the Restoration Area near Santo Road and Antigua Blvd.

- Water department tests showed that the leak from the blue release valve is from the concrete basin, i. e. treated water.
- The other seepage is the result of natural spring water, storm drain run-off through the canyons, and other natural water sources. The latter results were reported in a March 2, 2016 email to Bob Smith from Gabriel Shipley of the water department. Regardless, a sense of urgency remains.
- Water stored under MTRP flows to the city underneath Tierrasanta. Possible leaks along this system could have catastrophic results.
- The committee again urged acoustic testing as recommended two months. Dirk Smith of the water department has apparently assured Bob Smith that this testing will take place.

Rick and Krista Polito inquired regarding the installation of solar panels on dedicated open space. Deanna Spehn reiterated the policy that the land cannot be sold, traded, developed or used for purposes other than what it is intended—namely open space.

Sheldon Zemen noted that ramp meters on the Clairemont Mesa Blvd entrance to I-15 would be turned on due to increased traffic from the new Kaiser Medical Center. Tierrasanta Recreation Center field lights should be ready by June 1.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were not released in time for review and approval at this meeting.

Item 3: Staff Report for February 3, 2016 meeting

Refer to the staff report for updates on tree trimming, irrigation, brush management and invasive weed control. Discussion regarding water leaks is included under item 1 above.

- Discussion regarding removal of eucalyptus trees that obstruct views and create liability issues turned to the eventual replacement of older trees in the medians and other landscaped areas that currently define, or brand Tierrasanta. One example is the “coral” tree. This topic will be placed on the April agenda.
- Bob Smith reported that additional non-permitted trail building has occurred off the switchbacks at the end of La Cuenta Drive.
 - Aerial photos suggest the building started about two years ago. Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz hiked the trail and reported it to Bob Smith.
 - Schultz also found swaths of fresh, non-permitted brush cuts all along the upper end of the existing South Rueda trail.
 - Boulders and cut logs have been used to fill a portion of the trail that heavily eroded along the creek bed.
 - A fire has destroyed portions of the toyon grove, which the Friends hacked through to create the trail. The remaining grove is in a state of deterioration.
 - Dozens of debris piles resultant from trail building and subsequent brush cuts remain all along the trail.
 - Russian Thistle lines portions of the trail.
 - The newest addition roughly aligns with a proposed trail that would replace the trail that runs through private property and the wetlands. It is steep and winding

in many places. Stairs have been dug into the hillside. Plant materials have been grubbed to make way for the trail. Portions of the trail weave through another toyon grove with remnants of a child's fort or tree house.

- Bob Smith has made at least one attempt to block the trail from the southeast end. He stated that he could only be in one place at a time. It's impossible to patrol every acre of the open space on a daily basis.
- Schultz suggested that a ranger associated with MTRP be added to the rotation in Tierrasanta in order to safeguard the integrity of the canyons as MSRP habitat—especially if we plan on opening trails in these areas.
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- We await further word from Helix and the Open Space Division regarding the trails plan.

Item 4: Appointment of James Sanders to the Tierrasanta Open Space Committee as a voting member

Mike Ogilvie made the motion, and Betty Ogilvie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Item 5: Initial discussion regarding grassy parkway at Tierrasanta Town Center

Bob Smith noted that the sidewalks should be updated. There are several trip hazards. He would replace the grass with Palo Verde's, Jacaranda's, and colored gravel displays. It was asked if a pedestrian entrance to the shopping center could be included. The shopping center management has rebuffed requests to do this in the past.

Item 6: Painting of new utility box by Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts will paint a new utility box in front of De Portola Middle School. An example of their previous work is in front of the library. Color palettes have been expanded somewhat beyond the earth tones that were allowed before. A Public Art application must be submitted with the design and color selections.

Item 7: Status of trails system and environmental study status

Laura Ball of the Open Space Division will report to the open space committee during the April meeting.

Item 8: Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons

James Sanders reported that 19 volunteers removed palm seedlings and eucalyptus saplings during the February cleanup. Sea Lavender will be added to the list during the March cleanup. Sanders stated that the Friends are not building trails. They await the results of the Helix study. Plans are in the works for Bridge #3 to be placed along the single-track trail that runs from Vons along the hillside and across the creek to the kiosk.

Item 9: New Business

A senior zoning investigator dedicated to open space encroachment has been appointed.

Bob Lang asked what could be done to repair the service roads that double as trails. Spehn reiterated that there is nothing the Open Space Division can do. The service roads belong to the water department. It is their responsibility to maintain them. They have stated to us that no repairs are being planned in the foreseeable future. Bob Smith said minimal maintenance can be done, but we should wait for the rains to finish before starting.

Bob Lang asked regarding the policy of removing debris dams in the canyon creeks—especially those that cause localized flooding along the trail. Policy regarding the removal of fallen trees was also addressed. Fallen trees provide habitat. Schultz objected saying that we shouldn't be creating these unsightly habitats unnecessarily, especially in the view zones of homes in the Seda-Rueda Corridor. Trees in these areas were purposefully felled. Trunks and stumps were left for all to see.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.